

[English]

Imposing Ban on Book

4704. SHRI VIJAY GOEL : Will the Minister of HOME AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether it has come to notice of the Government that a foreign publication written by Mr. Jeffrey J. Kripal contains disparaging remarks about Saint Sri Ramakrishna;

(b) if so, whether the Government are considering to impose ban on the sale of this book in India; and

(c) the suggestions received by the Government to take up the matter appropriately with the U.S. Government?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF HOME AFFAIRS (SHRI MOHD. MAQBOOL DAR) : (a) to (c) The matter has been brought to the notice of the Government based on a review published in the Delhi Edition of the 'Statesman' of 31st January, 1997. However, our enquiries have revealed that the Department of Revenue, to date, has not received any reference from any of the field formations, under its jurisdiction, regarding import of any such publication. In view of this position, it is not possible to proceed further for consideration of banning entry of the book in India.

Prawn Culture

4705. SHRI SRIBALLAV PANIGRAHI : Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government have received representations from N.G.Os. functioning in the Coastal districts regarding non-implementation of directions of the Supreme Court concerning Prawn Culture in the Coastal Areas;

(b) if so, the details thereof;

(c) the details of the directions given by the Apex Court in the case of S. Jagannathan Vs. Union of India and others;

(d) the steps taken or propose to be taken by the Government to implement the directions of the Supreme Court; and

(e) the steps Government propose to take to promote environment friendly schemes of prawn cultivation?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) : (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. These representations have favoured the implementation of Supreme Court's judgement dated 11.12.1996 and have opposed any move to amend the

Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) Notification, 1991, issued under the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986. Other representations have also been received seeking continuance of shrimp aquaculture.

(c) The directions of the Supreme Court in the case of Shri S. Jagannathan Vs. Union of India and others are given in statement enclosed.

(d) A petition has been filed in the Supreme Court seeking review of the judgement of the Supreme Court has stayed the operation of its judgement till the 31st July, 1987. The matter is sub-judice.

(e) The Government has issued guidelines for sustainable development and management of brackishwater aquaculture in August, 1995 with the intention of promoting environment friendly shrimp/prawn aquaculture.

Statement

The Hon'ble Supreme Court in its judgement delivered on 11.12.1996 has imposed certain restrictions on shrimp farming along the coastal belt. The Judgement inter-alia states that :

(i) The Central Government shall constitute an authority under Section 3(3) of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and shall confer on the said authority all the powers necessary to protect the ecologically fragile coastal areas, sea shore, waterfront and other coastal areas and specially to deal with the situation created by the Shrimp culture industry in the coastal states, Union Territories. The authority so constituted by the Central Government shall implement 'the Precautionary Principle' and 'the Polluter Pays Principle'.

(ii) No Shrimp culture pond can be constructed or set up within the Coastal Regulation Zone (CRZ) except farms practising traditional and improved traditional types of technologies in the coastal low lying areas. This shall be applicable to all seas, bays, estuaries, creeks rivers and backwaters.

(iii) All Aquaculture industries/shrimp culture industries/ shrimp culture ponds operating/set up in the coastal regulation zone as defined under the CRZ Notification shall be demolished and removed from the said area before March 31, 1997.

(iv) No aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/ shrimp culture ponds shall be constructed/set up within 1000 meter of Chilka Lake and Pulicat Lake (including Bird Sanctuaries, namely Yudurapattu and Nelappattu).

(v) Agricultural Lands, salt pan lands, mangroves, wet lands forest lands, land for village common purposes and land meant for public purposes, shall not be used/converted for construction of shrimp culture ponds.

(vi) Aquaculture industry/shrimp culture industry/shrimp culture ponds other than traditional and improved traditional may be set up/constructed outside the Coastal Regulation Zone with prior approval of the 'Authority'.

(vii) The authority, in consultation with expert bodies like National Environmental Engineering Research Institute (NEERI), Central Pollution Control Board, respective State Pollution Control Boards shall frame scheme/schemes for reversing the damage caused to the ecology and environment by pollution in the coastal States/Union Territories.

Persons Below Poverty Line

4706. SHRI T. GOVINDAN : Will the Minister of CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION be pleased to state:

(a) whether a large section of people below poverty line in Kerala are deprived of the benefits of the Targeted Revised Public Distribution System (TRPDS) due to Centre's unscientific guidelines which are without giving any consideration to the special circumstances prevailing in Kerala; and

(b) if so, the steps taken in this direction?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) No, Sir.

(b) Does not arise.

Emissions of Green House Gases

4707. SHRI SURESH PRABHU : Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government have made any in-depth study of the problem of environmental threat caused by emissions of greenhouse gases in India which is supposed to be sixth largest producer of carbondioxide emissions;

(b) if so, the details of the study made and the agency which had undertaken the study; and

(c) the steps being contemplated to combat the growing menace of this problem?

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (PROF. SAIFUDDIN SOZ) : (a) and (b) Under a Technical Assistance Project from the Asian Development Bank, the Government has completed in 1994 a study entitled "CLIMATE CHANGE IN ASIA: India Country Report" wherein analyses of vulnerability to climatic and weather related events, the potential impacts of climate change and

preliminary estimates of National greenhouse gas emissions have been worked out. In this study, scientists and experts from various research institutions and universities such as National Physical Laboratory, New Delhi; Indian Agricultural Research Institute, New Delhi; Indian Institute of Science, Bangalore; Jawaharlal Nehru University, New Delhi; Tata Energy Research Institute, New Delhi had participated.

(c) The Government is seized of the problem and is a Party to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. As per the existing obligations under this treaty, India is not required to adopt any national greenhouse gas reduction target (s). However, the country's existing legal and policy framework in the area of environment provides for combating the projected climate change.

Disease in Wheat Crops

4708. SHRI RAJESH RANJAN ALIAS PAPPU YADAV: Will the Minister of AGRICULTURE be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Government are aware that a disease has been spread in the crop of wheat in North and Central Bihar due to which wheat has turned poisonous and the farmers have suffered huge losses;

(b) if so, whether the Union Government have formulated any scheme to compensate the farmers;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF AGRICULTURE (EXCLUDING THE DEPARTMENT OF ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING) AND MINISTER OF CIVIL SUPPLIES, CONSUMER AFFAIRS AND PUBLIC DISTRIBUTION AND MINISTER OF FOOD (SHRI CHATURANAN MISHRA) :
(a) Yes, Sir. The Government is aware that Ear-cockle disease of wheat has been reported in some scattered patches in Gaya, Vaishali, Darbhanga and Madhubani districts in North and Central Bihar. The diseased galls are not edible but the gall free wheat grains are not poisonous. About 3 to 20% of the wheat grains have been found affected by the disease in the disease-affected areas.

(b) to (d) In view of reply to part (a) of the Question, Union Government have not formulated any scheme to compensate the farmers. However, soon after receipt of information about the occurrence of the disease, State/ Central Governments organised field surveys to assess the disease situation. Vigorous publicity and awareness campaign has been launched to educate the farmers to avoid recurrence of the disease in future by sowing disease-gall free seeds.

Assistance for Fodder Banks

4709. SHRI N. J. RATHWA : Will the Minister of ANIMAL HUSBANDRY AND DAIRYING be pleased to state :